

REMARKS:

Support for the amendments to claims 6, 17, and 18 may at least be found in paragraphs 24, 34, and in original claims 13, 19, 21, and 33. Support for the amendments to claims 22 and 26 may be found at least in paragraphs 46 and 48.

Since these amendments are presented prior to examination of the application, these amendments are not submitted for reasons related to patentability.

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned directly at (312) 609-7970.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

Timothy J. Bechen
Reg. No. 48,126

Dated: 2/23/04

Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz, P.C.
222 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601
PHONE: (312) 609-7870
FAX: (312) 609-5005